

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TEXTILES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2883
ANSWERED ON:07.12.2000
DUTY FREE EXPORT OF RAW WOOL
GANGASANDRA SIDDAPPA BASAVARAJ

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) Whether India has sought duty free export of raw wool as well as joint ventures with Australia in woollen industry to achieve global market in woollen products;
- (b) If so, whether this issue was taken up by the Minister during his visit to Australia during November, 2000;
- (c) If so, the details thereof;
- (d) The extent to which the Government of Australia has agreed to our proposal;
- (e) Whether any agreement in this regard is likely to be signed; and
- (f) If so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR)

(a) to (f) India and Australia constituted a Joint Business Group on Natural Fibres and Textiles in February, 2000 with the objective of facilitating networking between industry representatives of both countries; improving mutual understanding of the capacity and interests of the wool, cotton, silk, jute and textile industries in both countries, improving understanding of relevant policies of either country by the industry and government of the other country; removing impediments to trade and promoting trade in natural fibres and industry; encouraging bilateral cooperation on international issues affecting textiles trade; and facilitating technology transfer, training for business development and environmentally sound development in natural fibres and textile industries in both countries.

Issues relevant to the objectives of the Joint Business Group and of mutual concern to both countries were discussed in the meeting between the Minister for Textiles and the Australian Ministers during his visit. This included reduction in duties on import of raw wool from Australia and the development of products and greater market access in Australia & third countries for the Indian Woollen Industry. The discussions were beneficial in establishing understanding of concerns and major issues and were not expected to lead to the signing of an agreement.